Claims

1. Method of assessing the state of Alzheimer's disease in a subject comprising detection of at least one polypeptide comprised in a group of polypeptides having, respectively, molecular masses of 4824 ± 20 Da, of 7691 ± 20 Da, of 11787 ± 20 Da, of 11988 ± 20 Da, of 13416 ± 20 Da, of 4769 ± 20 Da, of 6958 ± 20 Da, of 6991 ± 20 Da, of 13412 ± 20 Da, of 13787 ± 20 Da, of 17276 ± 20 Da, of 40437 ± 20 Da, of 6895 ± 20 Da, of 6928 ± 20 Da, of 7691 ± 20 Da, of 7769 ± 20 Da, of 7934 ± 20 Da, of 5082 ± 20 Da, of 6267± 20 Da, of 6518 ± 20 Da, of 7274 ± 20 Da, and of 8209 ± 20 Da.

2. Method of claim 1 in which at least 2, or 3, or 4, or 5, or 10 or all polypeptides of said group of peptides are detected.

3. Method of assessing the state of Alzheimer's disease in a subject comprising detection of at least one polypeptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16 and/or SEQ ID NO:17.

4. Method of assessing the state of Alzheimer's disease in a subject comprising detection of at least one polypeptide comprised in a group of polypeptides consisting of

   i) human cystatin C,
   ii) human beta-2-microglobulin,
   iii) human myoglobin (new variant)
   iv) neurosecretory protein VGF,
   v) a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human cystatin C,
   vi) a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human beta-2-microglobulin,

vii) a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human myoglobin (new variant), and

viii) a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of neurosecretory protein VGF.

5. Method of investigating the progression of Alzheimer's disease in a subject characterised in that a method of any of claims 1 to 4 is performed with at least two distinct samples drawn from the same subject.

6. Method of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein detection of said polypeptide(s) is by SELDI-TOF MS.

7. Method of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein specific antibodies or antibodies recognising said polypeptides are used for detection of said polypeptide(s).

8. Method of any of claims 1 to 7, wherein detection is in a sample comprising CSF, blood, serum, plasma, urine, seminal plasma, nipple fluid, and/or cell extracts of said patient.

9. A kit comprising polypeptides having a molecular mass of 4824 ± 20 Da, of 7691 ± 20 Da, of 11787 ± 20 Da, of 11988 ± 20 Da, of 13416 ± 20 Da, of 4769 ± 20 Da, of 6958 ± 20 Da, of 6991 ± 20 Da, of 13412 ± 20 Da, of 13787 ± 20 Da, of 17276 ± 20 Da, of 40437 ± 20 Da, of 6895 ± 20 Da, of 6928 ± 20 Da, of 7691 ± 20 Da, of 7769 ± 20 Da, of 7934 ± 20 Da, of 5082 ± 20 Da, of 6267± 20 Da, of 6518 ± 20 Da, of 7274 ± 20 Da, and/or of 8209 ± 20 Da.

10. A kit comprising a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human cystatin C, a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human beta-2-microglobulin, a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of human myoglobin (new variant), and a fragment of at least 5 amino acids of neurosecretory protein VGF.